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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, source of goodness, forgive our departures from Your plans. We have desired to rule and not to serve. We have wanted to avenge ourselves and not forgive. We have focused on getting and not giving, on speaking and not listening. We have been too busy to spend time with You, and the voice of conscience has condemned us. We have learned too little from our mistakes. Forgive us not because of our goodness but because of Your mercy.

Today, bless our Senators with Your peace. Help them to honor You with their thoughts and actions. Prepare each of us for a future of hope and trust. We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments, we will return to the consid-

eration of the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. We are very close to an agreement which will allow us to finish that bill at an early hour today. The two managers have worked diligently over the course of the last week and this week—it has been now 2 weeks on the bill—and we are now ready to proceed to final passage after we dispose of a few remaining issues. I expect that we will line up a series of stacked votes beginning sometime around 10:45 or 11 this morning, and we will alert Senators once we lock in that time.

Once we complete the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, we will start consideration of the Agriculture appropriations bill. Senators should begin preparing for that bill and I encourage Senators to notify their respective chairman and ranking member if they intend to offer amendments. It is helpful for the two leaders and the bill managers to know in advance what amendments will be offered so that we can proceed in an orderly way.

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the monthlong celebration honoring the heritage of Hispanic Americans. That monthlong celebration begins today.

Nearly 40 years ago, Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. Two decades later, George Herbert Walker Bush expanded the celebration to 4 weeks. National Hispanic Heritage Month was born. Every year we set aside a month to pay special regard to the contributions of Hispanic Americans.

Over the centuries, Hispanic Americans have profoundly affected the course of human history. Their influence predates the birth of our Nation, tracing back to the first footsteps of Spanish explorers now more than 400 years ago.

DeSoto and his men were the first to discover the mighty Mississippi. Coronado's expedition unearthed the Grand Canyon. DeAnza blazed a trail from Mexico to California's Pacific coast.

Since the dawn of early explorers, millions of men and women from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America, South America, and Spain have continued the tradition of settling in America. They have come in search of freedom, peace, and prosperity, and they have gotten far more than they sought.

Through the ages, Hispanic Americans have left an indelible mark on the history, the culture, and the values of our Nation. It is those values and contributions that we celebrate.

Some names stand out. David Barkley was the first Hispanic American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Barkley voluntarily swam the frosty Meuse River in France during World War I to gather information behind enemy lines. He gave his life to our country, drowning on his swim back to land.

Luis Alvarez, a Nobel Prize recipient, revolutionized the safety of air travel by inventing the ground control radar system for aircraft landings.

Ellen Ochoa was the world's first Hispanic-American astronaut.

Sara Martinez Tucker, who I had the opportunity to meet at a dinner I recently hosted, her story intrigued me so much. A native of Laredo, Sara worked her way up from humble beginnings to be the first Hispanic female to hold an executive position at AT&T. Time Magazine recently named her one of the top 25 most influential Hispanic Americans. But most important is what she has done to help other Hispanic Americans realize their own dreams. As CEO of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, she has grown the scholarship fund from \$3 million tenfold to \$30 million in scholarship money distributed every year, and she is not stopping there. Sara wants to nearly

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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